

**EXCISE**

Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

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Exemption(s) B1 B6 April 20, 1987

TO: The DEM

FROM: David Dreher

SUBJECT

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ACB

[ ] appeared at the Embassy, unannounced, at approximately 10:30. I dropped what I was doing and met with him for the next 90 minutes. [ ] dominated the conversation but I managed to ask a few questions.

CHARLES HORMAN

According to [ ] Horman was seized by Intelligence units acting on <sup>information</sup> ~~request~~ provided by Salas, current CNI head. He was taken to the Escuela Militar and interrogated. From there he was transferred to the National Stadium for additional questioning. Documents seized from his residence indicated that Horman was an "extremist". He was therefore considered a foreigner/extremist and the order was given to execute him. [ ] said that Horman spoke little Spanish and the troops that had him were unaware that he was an American. Instead, they thought that he was a Brazilian, Italian, etc... The record indicating that he was an American arrived at the stadium after the execution. He was forced to change clothes and then shot three times. The body was dumped on the streets to indicate that he had been killed in a confrontation. The news of his death got lost in the confusion of those days and later was suppressed as it was known that he was an American.

[ ] said that the person at the stadium who made the decision on who was to die was Pedro Espinoza, of later DINA fame. He estimated that several hundred people perished at the stadium. It was worse in Valparaiso, he said, where most of the bodies were weighted down and dumped at sea. [ ]

EMBASSY ROLE

[ ] does not feel that the Embassy did very much to help the Horman family

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[ ] was highly critical of the Consul General at the time and [ ] of the military group for not acting to help a fellow citizen. He also said

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that he was getting the impression that the Embassy still was not very ~~interested~~  
interested. However, he conceded that no one in the Embassy had played a role in  
what happened to Charles Horman. He was dead before any Embassy official knew he  
was missing.

WHAT DOES [ ] WANT?

This is the question I have been asking myself and I asked him, many times and  
in many ways. He insisted that he only wants justice, that Mr. Horman should  
know what happened to his son. However, at the end of the conversation, he  
mentioned going to the U.S. to tell his story since he would have to leave Chile  
once the truth was out. I deduced that what he seeks is some type of U.S.  
government protection for himself [ ] In return, he  
will tell all.

WHAT DOES HE KNOW?

[ ] He also claims  
to know about the Prats case. If he is genuine, he could be a gold mine of informa-  
tion.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

[ ]  
claims that he is non-political but dislikes the extremes of both sides. He said  
that he was not interested in money nor in his own personal safety but was con-  
cerned ~~XXXXXX~~ about [ ]

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WHAT DO I THINK?

He could be a plant. For one thing, I don't understand his motivation. Why after 14 years has he finally decided to tell his story? On the less-cynical side, it could be a copycat syndrome from Fernandez Larios that has pushed him into our arms. His answers seem too pat, too much what we want to hear, especially his opinions of the present government. He extolled Ambassador Barnes, saying that finally the U.S. had a true Ambassador in Chile. Once again, what he might think we would want to hear. Overall, I lean toward the idea that he is credible, but I have some <sup>questions</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ [ ]

WHAT DO WE DO?

I asked him this question. He told me that it was my decision. I, of course, waffled. I told him that I would talk to my immediate superior and that he should call me on Friday morning for a definite answer. Personally, I don't think that I should continue as his Embassy contact. There are others here who can handle the situation in a more proficient manner. If he is a plant, trying to compromise us, someone else could be more adept at determining this. If he is the genuine article, then someone of a higher rank should be handling him. My involvement has been accidental (I happened to answer the phone the first day he came to the Embassy). Now it is time for someone else to carry the ball. FYI: As I escorted him to the elevator, he asked about talking to someone from our intelligence forces.

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TO: The DOM

I asked him if he had tried to contact Mrs. Kobliska. He said that he had gone to the Consulate that morning but was told by an emissary that Mrs. Kobliska could not see him because he did not have an appointment. Rather, he was told to get in touch with me. He then turned up at the Embassy. During the conversation, I asked him if he wanted to talk with Mrs. Kobliska in the future. He did not say no but indicated that he wanted to talk with whomever could take action in the matter. As you can tell from the account, it is difficult to determine what action he wants us to take.

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